Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of the claims replaces all previous listings and versions of the claims in this application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-24: (canceled)

25. (new) A semi-submersible floating platform for drilling and/or production of petroleum from the seabed, comprising:

a semi-submersible hull supported on a submersible base and supporting a deck structure;

an upper guide assembly provided in the deck structure;

a lower guide assembly provided in the base;

a buoyancy apparatus guided within the upper and lower guide assemblies and having an upper surface;

a well deck provided on the upper surface of the buoyancy apparatus; and

at least two top-tensioned vertical risers extending from the seabed through the buoyancy apparatus to the well deck;

whereby contact loads between the buoyancy apparatus and the upper and lower guide assemblies provide a restoring moment to the platform in response to pitching motions of the platform.

26. (new) The platform of claim 25, further comprising:

a tendon assembly vertically restraining the buoyancy apparatus, the tendon assembly passing axially through the buoyancy apparatus and connected to the well deck and the seabed.

27. (new) The platform of Claim 25, wherein the buoyancy apparatus comprises a single elongate tubular buoy.

28. (new) The platform of Claim 25, wherein the buoyancy apparatus comprises a plurality of interconnected elongate tubular buoys.

29. (new) The platform of Claim 25, wherein the buoyancy apparatus is vertically restrained by

the risers.

30. (new) The platform of Claim 26, wherein the risers are coupled to the tendon assembly.

31. (new) The riser system of Claim 26, wherein the risers and the tendon assembly are uncoupled.

32. (new) A riser system for use in a floating offshore platform, wherein the platform defines a centerwell having an upper portion and a lower portion, the riser system comprising:

an upper guide assembly in the upper portion of the centerwell;

a lower guide assembly in the lower portion of the centerwell;

a buoyancy apparatus guided and constrained by the upper and lower guide assemblies, the buoyancy apparatus having an upper surface, whereby contact loads between the buoyancy apparatus and the upper and lower guide assemblies provide a restoring moment to the platform in response to pitching motions of the platform;

a well deck provided on the upper surface of the buoyancy apparatus;

at least two vertical risers supported by the buoyancy apparatus and attached to the well deck and extending through the buoyancy apparatus for connection to a seabed wellhead; and

a tendon assembly extending through the buoyancy apparatus and securing the buoyancy apparatus to the seabed.

33. (new) The riser system of Claim 32, wherein the tendon assembly is configured and arranged for the absorption of tension loads.

34. (new) The riser system of Claim 32, wherein the risers are coupled to the tendon assembly.

35. (new) The riser system of Claim 32, wherein the risers and the tendon assembly are uncoupled.

36. (new) The riser system of Claim 32, wherein the buoyancy apparatus comprises a single

elongate tubular buoy.

37. (new) The riser system of Claim 32, wherein the buoyancy apparatus comprises a plurality of interconnected elongate tubular buoys.

38. (new) The riser system of Claim 32, wherein each of the tubular tendon elements comprises a plurality of sections connected with casing joints.

39. (new) A floating offshore platform that is securable to the seabed and connectable to a seabed wellhead, the platform comprising:

an outer hull having a centerwell;

upper and lower guide assemblies in the centerwell;

a buoyancy apparatus guided and constrained within the centerwell by the upper and lower guide assemblies;

a tendon assembly passing through the buoyancy apparatus and securing the buoyancy apparatus to the seabed;

a plurality of risers passing through the buoyancy apparatus and extending to the seabed wellhead; and

a riser guide within the buoyancy apparatus, coupling the risers to the tendon assembly in a spaced-apart relationship.

40. (new) The platform of claim 39, wherein the buoyancy apparatus has an axial centerline, and wherein the tendon assembly passes through the centerline of the buoyancy apparatus.

41. (new) The platform of claim 39, wherein the tendon assembly comprises at least two concentric tubular tendon elements.

42. (new) The platform of claim 39, wherein the riser guide comprises:

a central tendon channel; and

a plurality of riser channels arranged circumferentially around the tendon channel.

43. (new) The platform of claim 42, wherein each of the riser channels is connected to the tendon channel by a separator element.

44. (new) The platform of claim 39, wherein the buoyancy apparatus has at least one riser slot and at least one tendon slot.